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FOREIGN AND INSULAR.

ARGENTINA.

Report from Buenos Aires—Summary of proceedings of the leprosy conference.

On June 14, 1906, information was received from the American legation at Buenos Aires that the development of leprosy in the littoral provinces of Argentina had assumed such serious proportions that the national government had concluded to call a special medical conference to suggest measures for combating the disease. (See Public Health Reports, August 3, 1906, p. 894.) In continuance of this subject Consul-General Snyder reports, January 7, 1907, as follows:

The sanitary conference for the study of the development of leprosy and the adoption of scientific measures to combat the disease in the Argentine Republic met in Buenos Aires on November 20, 1906, and closed its sessions on November 27.

The delegate from the Province of Corrientes stated that the district he represented had been more afflicted with leprosy than any other part of the Republic and that at one time the disease had developed in a very severe form. He stated that it had greatly increased during the last twenty years, the cases now numbering 272, with a possible 50 per cent addition for unknown or slightly developed cases. The age at which it was most prevalent was from 30 to 60 years. All classes, regardless of social position, were attacked. The majority of those attacked with leprosy were sick from one to fifteen years. A greater number acquired leprosy by living with lepers outside of the family than in the family. The number was greater among those living in the country than in the populated centers. There were sections of country in which it was slightly diffused, others in which a slight tendency was shown toward diffusion, and others which were truly centers and hotbeds of leprosy. The epidemic in Corrientes presented features resembling those observed in the infected districts of Norway, which had been studied by Leloir.

He recommended the isolation of lepers, and advised legislation to that end by the national government. The delegate also stated that in the chronic form of the disease there was a tendency to a nomadic life, and that the leper desired to breathe the air in perfect liberty. It was necessary for him, therefore, to be free from the seclusion of an ordinary hospital, but he could be isolated in an extensive country place, engage in some work suitable to his condition, and at the same time have pure air to breathe, or, in other words, a colony should be established with all the accommodations necessary for those so afflicted, and likewise with all modern elements for the study and cure of the disease. He believed that one national colony was preferable to many colonies scattered over several parts of the country. He concluded by saying that the best place for said colony was on one of the

islands of the Atlantic, and that from his study of the disease he had deduced the following conclusions:

1. Change of climate alone is beneficial to the leper.
2. The leper colonies in the provinces have given contrary results from those hoped for by changing these into foci for the disease.
3. Isolation has been rendered null and void.
4. The stigma of leprosy is injurious to any province.
5. No province presents any advantages over the others which calls for its sacrifice as a national leper colony.
6. The problem can best be solved and with greater perfection by the creation of a leper colony on some island.

The delegate from Entre Rios read a report showing that the disease had greatly diminished in that province and that there were now only about 50 cases. The other delegates made similar reports. The representative from Chaco said there were only occasional "walking cases" in that district, and these were explained by its proximity to Corrientes.

Resolutions were adopted recommending that certain measures be taken by the National Government to prevent the spread of the disease.

The resolutions are as follows:

1. To make it compulsory to report to the sanitary authority all cases of leprosy existing in the Republic.
2. To make equally compulsory the sanitary treatment of all lepers.
3. To carry out the previous proposals entails upon the Government the erection of one or more establishments to adequately treat such persons.
4. To prohibit entrance into the country of all foreigners suffering from leprosy.
5. That it is the opinion of the leprosy conference that the Republic should have at least one national colony for the treatment of lepers.
6. The sanitary authority above referred to is the national department of hygiene.
7. The conference viewed with pleasure the proposed action of the Government to make a register of all lepers in the Republic and hoped that it would be taken in a thorough and uniform manner.

AUSTRIA.

Typhus fever.

[From official records.]

Week ended January 19, 1907. Nineteen cases of typhus fever reported in Galicia; 1 case in Bukowina.

BRAZIL.

Reports from Rio de Janeiro—Inspection of vessels—Mortality—Plague, smallpox, and yellow fever.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Stewart reports, January 24, 27, 31, and February 6, as follows:

Week ended January 20, 1907. Vessels inspected and bills of health issued as follows:

On the 15th instant the British steamship *Tanagra*, for Baltimore, with a cargo of manganese ore, no passengers, and with no change in